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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/670,779	09/27/2000	Paul D. Daly	99P7948US 60426-81	6743

24500 7590 12/19/2003

SIEMENS CORPORATION  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW DEPARTMENT  
170 WOOD AVENUE SOUTH  
ISELIN, NJ 08830

EXAMINER
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PENDLETON, BRIAN T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2644	4

DATE MAILED: 12/19/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/670,779

Applicant(s)

DALY, PAUL D.

Examiner

Brian T. Pendleton

Art Unit

2644

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 September 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 10 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-7 and 9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3 and 8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 4-7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McDonald et al, GB 2 252 657 A, "Vibration and sound generation in vehicles" in view of Reighard et al. McDonald et al teach a system comprising active noise cancellation module 30 which has control for determining a cancellation function through differential amplifiers 40, bandpass filters 41 and CPU 44. The noise cancellation signal is output through speakers 11 and vibrating elements 8 (see pages 8 and 9). The speakers and vibration elements also reproduce audio sounds produced by vehicle sound source 15, which are based on vehicle operation (last paragraph, page 6 – first paragraph, page 7). The output from the sound source 15 is switchable by the user. The vehicle sound source 15 is mixed with the noise canceling signal in mixer 9 and output to the speakers. As suggested, the sound source can be any desirable sound during operation of vehicle. At the time of invention, a warning sound from a horn was desirable and occurs during operation of a vehicle. Reighard et al disclose a horn apparatus comprising switch (piezoelectric member) 50 and speaker 85. Activation of the switch 50 triggers a horn sound source from speaker 85. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate the

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horn of Reighard et al in the invention of McDonald et al. The advantage of having a horn in the McDonald et al would have been to conserve space. One of ordinary skill in the art without undue experimentation would have realized to use the horn of Reighard et al as the sound source 15 in McDonald et al since McDonald et al suggested vehicle operation sounds. By inserting the horn as the sound source, an existing speaker could be used for the horn output instead of a separate speaker which would take up more space under the hood of the vehicle. Claims 1 and 7 are met. As to claims 4 and 9, at the time of invention, inherently horns were actuated when the vehicle key was in the "on" or "off" position. Regarding claim 5, the combination comprises a horn sound source in a noise cancellation environment. Reighard et al do not teach any restrictions on the horn use, therefore the horn sound would be reproduced when the key is at the "on" position and regardless of the operation of the noise cancellation system. Per claim 6, there is a CODEC in CPU unit 44.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claim 10 is allowed.

Claims 2, 3 and 8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

#### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Rowley et al, Chatwell, and Tomisawa et al.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian T. Pendleton whose telephone number is (703) 305-9509. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Forester W. Isen can be reached on (703) 305-4386. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9314.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.



Brian Tyrone Pendleton  
December 10, 2003

  
XU MEI  
PRIMARY EXAMINER